

BLOOD, HAT AND REVOLVER FOUND

Mystery Surrounds Suicide of
Unknown Passenger on O. D.
Liner Hamilton.

SHOOT HIMSELF; FALLS OR JUMPS OVERBOARD

Well Dressed Stranger Who Boarded
Ship at New York Puts End to His
Life in Still of Night When Vessel
Is Fighting Strong Gale in Atlantic.
Initials "A. P. P."

While the Old Dominion Line steamer Hamilton was fighting her way down the coast from New York to this port in the teeth of a fifty-knot gale, a tragedy which is shrouded in mystery was enacted upon her quarterdeck about the middle of the night. Sometime during the night an unknown passenger on the vessel sent a bullet from a 32-calibre revolver crashing through his body, and, after leaning against the deck railing long enough for a great pool of blood to form at his feet, either fell or climbed over the railing and plunged into the raging sea some twenty feet below.

Nothing was known of the suicide until the Hamilton was nearing Cape Henry at 6 o'clock yesterday morning when one of the deck hands saw the pool of blood, the revolver and a black derby hat on the deck. Perforated in the inside band of the hat were the initials "A. P. P." The deck hand reported his find to the officers of the steamer, and the register of the passengers who boarded the ship at New York was searched in an effort to identify the suicide. It developed then that the man had not registered when boarding the ship and the officers think that he went on the vessel with the deliberate intention of killing himself at sea.

At Dinner With Passengers. Though he did not register, the passenger was seen aboard the ship and ate dinner shortly before 6 o'clock. He is described as being tall and slender and apparently was about 35 years old. His hair was iron grey and his complexion was rather dark. He wore a blue serge suit of fashionable cut and had the appearance of being a prosperous business or professional man.

After the discovery that the passenger had killed himself, the steward recalled that at supper the unknown man called for a pint of claret and paid for it with a \$5 bill. He appeared to be perfectly sober at that time. He drank his wine and left the dining saloon about 9 o'clock. So far as is known that was the last seen of him.

As he did not register, the man was not assigned to any stateroom on the vessel and the assumption is that he secreted himself on the quarterdeck until the passengers had retired for the night. He was in a protected position there and could have remained in the lee of the cabin several hours without suffering from the cold.

No One Heard Shot. That no one on the vessel heard the report of the revolver was due to the fact that the high wind was blowing and the tragedy occurred on the lee side. Only one shot was fired as but one empty shell was found in the chamber of the five-shooting revolver.

The railing of the ship was covered with blood and a large pool of blood was on the deck, indicating that the man must have leaned against the railing several minutes, at least, before plunging overboard. Officers of the steamer believe that the man's aim was bad, probably due to the fact that his fingers were cramped by the cold, and that he did not inflict a mortal wound. They think that after finding that he had not finished the job he climbed over the high railing

and plunged into the ocean. His body probably never will be seen again as the ship was far out at sea even when the passenger first left the dining saloon.

Trying to Establish Identity. Inquiry as to the identity of the passenger is being made through the New York office of the Old Dominion Company and the officials of the line hope to learn who the man was. It is believed that relatives of the passenger will be able to recognize the description which officers of the ship give. The revolver and derby hat also are being held as it is regarded as possible that these may aid in establishing who the man was.

When seen by a Daily Press reporter on board their vessel at Chesapeake & Ohio pier No. 6 last night, the officers of the Hamilton declined to discuss the suicide. Captain Boaz was seen in his cabin where he had retired for the night. When asked about the suicide, the skipper wanted to know what the reporter knew about it. He was told that the reporter knew that a man had shot himself on the vessel at sea. Captain Boaz then explained that he knew little about the tragedy, saying that it was not reported to him until 9 o'clock yesterday morning. He referred the reporter to the steward.

That official declined to discuss the case, saying that a full report had been made to W. H. Landon, general agent of the company, at Norfolk and that any information about the case would have to come from him.

Mr. Landon Gives Details. When communicated with at his home on the Boulevard, Mr. Landon gave out the details as they had been reported to him by the officers of the ship.

The Hamilton left New York for Norfolk and this port at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. So far as is known no one on the vessel saw the mysterious passenger come aboard and he was first noticed at dinner and then no particular attention was paid to him by the officers.

AMUSEMENTS

What is expected to prove an exceptionally strong show has been arranged at the Olympic for the latter half of the week, commencing with today's matinee. Three new acts come into the bill and all are reported to be exceptionally good. La Fere and Fields, a clever pair of singing and dancing misers, are said to present a very pleasing sister act.

McGrath, "the upside-down" man, is claimed to be as nimble on his hands as many people on their feet. His act, besides many hazardous tricks, includes a sand dance, upside-down, Ed and Nettie Mason, in "Fun in the Dining Room" introduce clever juggling intermingled with good comedy and are said to have one of the best acts of its kind on the stage.

Sister, Earle and Darrell are continued in the Olympic's bill and their comedy play, "The Reconciliation," is refined, clever and entertaining and has pleased the Olympic's audiences immensely so far this week.

Promises Excellent Small Cast. The English Grand Opera Company, which is to play a special engagement at the Academy of Music tomorrow, matinee and night, under the auspices of the Associated Charities, arrived here yesterday direct from New York city. In the cast of fourteen players are some well known opera stars and Manager C. L. Robinson promises a treat to the music lovers of this city.

The company is to present Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana" preceded by an amusing operetta in one act, "The Rose of Aversa." Accompanying the grand opera company is the Ladies' Orchestra, which will render an orchestra recital during the evening, playing the popular New York successes. By request Miss May Martin will render "The Evening Star" from Tanhauser, by Wagner.

"Cavalleria Rusticana," originally written as a drama, produced by Alexander Salvini, and afterward set to music by Mascagni, is essentially a great grand opera and one of the few which does not require a choral ensemble. Manager Robinson says that because of the fact that he does not have to carry a big chorus as most grand opera companies do he is able to give the music lovers a production at a smaller price than ever before attempted in the South.

Among those in the cast of the company are William Nockow, late tenor of the National Opera of Berlin, Germany; Miss Bertha Heyman, soprano, late of the Hammerstein Opera New York city; C. P. Plangon, baritone; Miss Helen Jackson, Miss Ardis Allworth and Arthur Paquet.

Academy of Music. "The Girl From Eagle Ranch" will be presented by the Johnson Players for the last time tonight. Owing to the popularity of this bill, it was decided to extend its run another day. And as the Academy will have grand opera Friday afternoon and evening, Mr. Johnson has decided to "lay off" the company and devote the day to rehearsals for the Christmas week attractions. A banquet will be tendered the players Saturday night.

"The Night Before Christmas" is the play to be produced next Monday, and unusual preparations are being made for the production.

Taft Withdraws Nomination. WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 21.—President Taft today withdrew from the senate the nomination of James N. Sharp to be United States attorney for the Eastern district of Kentucky. Charges have been filed at the White House against Mr. Sharp and the nomination was withdrawn for an investigation.

The largest and best selection of straight and blended Whiskies in the city. NEWPORT NEWS WINE & LIQUOR CO., Cor. Twenty-fifth street and Washington avenue. Bell Phone No. 2, Citizens, 126.

WOULD START CAMPAIGN

Members of Chamber Pushing
Reclamation Movement.

PUBLISH FULL REPORT

Plan Suggested of Distributing Copy
of Engineer Warren's Paper on
Drainage of Swamp Lands Among
Residents of Counties.

An educational campaign in the interest of the movement for the reclamation of that vast area of swamp land across the Virginia Peninsula a few miles to the northward of this city is being planned by a number of the members of the Chamber of Commerce and the matter will be discussed at the next meeting of the Chamber in January.

Those who are in favor of launching this campaign are considering the advisability of getting out a booklet containing a complete copy of the report of Engineer Warren, of the bureau of drainage, United States department of agriculture, on the best method of draining the swamp and distributing copies of the pamphlet throughout the Peninsula.

Must Co-operate. Newport News and Hampton and the counties of Warwick, Elizabeth City and York must co-operate if the project is to be consummated, members of the chamber say, and the first thing to be done is to tell the people of the counties what a great advantage it will be to them to have the pest-ridden swamp drained and converted into truck farms.

One of the first things that will be done will be to secure the names of the persons who own the land which is proposed to be drained and how many acres each man or woman owns. After the educational campaign is launched the cities and counties will unite in getting a drainage commission named by the court under the provisions of the act passed by the last legislature.

Cost Is Comparatively Small. Engineer Warren has reported that the 5,500 acres of land in the swamp can be drained for \$27,500, or about \$5 an acre. As it stands now the land is practically useless and probably could not be sold at any price. If drained and converted into farmable land would be worth around \$100 or more, the engineer says.

It is proposed to put the matter up to the county authorities and the land owners on a business basis and the members of the chamber believe that there will be no difficulty in getting the co-operation of both the owners and the authorities of the counties.

NEWPORT NEWS NEGRO KILLED IN RICHMOND

Otis Taylor Dies in Hospital from
Wound Inflicted by Henrico
County Sheriff.

Otis Taylor, a Newport News negro, who was shot on the Chesapeake & Ohio railway yards just south of Richmond Tuesday afternoon by Deputy Sheriff W. W. Sydnor, of Henrico county, died at 5:30 o'clock yesterday morning in the colored city home hospital in Richmond. Deputy Sheriff Sydnor surrendered himself after the shooting and is out on \$500 bail pending a hearing.

According to the statement of the deputy sheriff and Detective Anglin of the C. & O. force, the shooting was done in self-defense. Taylor was wanted for breaking into and robbing the store of J. B. Richardson at Providence Forge of some shoes and guns. The man was trying to sell the shoes when the deputy sheriff and C. & O. officer came upon him. The negro drew his gun, but the deputy sheriff was too quick for him and shot the black down before Taylor could get his gun into action.

Taylor told the people at the hospital that he lived at 1124 Twenty-fourth street, this city, but no negroes live in that section.

Woman Charged With Assault. Mary Allen, a negroess, was summoned yesterday by Patrolman Fisher to appear in the police court this morning to answer the charge of assault. James P. Murphy, also colored, swore out a warrant against the woman.

Delicately Formed

and gently reared, women will find in all the seasons of their lives, as mothers, wives and mothers, that the one simple, wholesome, laxative remedy, which acts gently and pleasantly and naturally and which may be taken at any time, when the system needs a laxative, with perfect safety and really beneficial effects, is Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna.

It has that true delicacy of flavor which is so refreshing to the taste, that warming and grateful tonic to the stomach which responds so favorably to its action and the laxative effect which is so beneficial to the system when, occasionally, its gentle cleansing is required.

The genuine, always bearing the name of the California Fig Syrup Co., may be purchased from all leading druggists in original packages of one size only, price fifty cents per bottle.

COOK WITH GAS

SOCIAL-PERSONAL

Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Stearnes have returned from Clifton Springs, N. Y., where Mr. Stearnes underwent treatment in a sanatorium.

Miss Mary Smith left yesterday for Hickory, N. C., where she will spend the Christmas holidays with relatives.

Miss Georgia Greene, of Richmond, will arrive this week to spend Christmas with her sister, Mrs. Frank A. McMillan, at the Colonial apartments, in North End.

Mr. A. A. Applewhite will leave tomorrow for Suffolk, Va., to spend Christmas with his mother.

Mr. W. M. Parker is very ill at his home on Thirty-fifth street.

The condition of Mrs. Charles H. Sinton, who has been very ill at her home in East End for several weeks, was slightly improved yesterday.

Mrs. E. H. Howard, of Brooklyn, N. Y., is visiting her mother, Mrs. H. K. Howard, 1149 Hampton avenue. She will be joined Saturday by Mr. Howard, who will spend the Christmas holidays with his parents.

Mrs. Lucy Murray, who was operated upon at the Elizabeth Buxton hospital Tuesday for appendicitis, is reported to be doing very nicely.

Mr. Harry Shawen will leave tomorrow for Leesburg, Va., where he will spend the holidays with his parents.

Messrs. Albert, H. B. and John Hughes, who are attending the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, are expected to arrive home this week to spend Christmas with their parents in North End.

Mrs. Ernest Voigt and little son will leave this week for Suffolk to spend the holidays with Mrs. Voigt's mother.

Mrs. L. H. Wilson, who has been visiting her son, Mr. Michael Wilson, in Norfolk, has returned home.

Mr. Clarence Thompson will leave tomorrow for Baltimore, where he will spend the Christmas holidays.

Mrs. C. W. Tallman and children left yesterday for Richmond, where they will join Mr. Tallman. They will go to Danville to spend the Christmas holidays with relatives.

Mr. C. Aylett Ashby, who is attending the Virginia Episcopal Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Va., is expected home this week to spend the holidays with Mrs. Ashby and children on Thirty-third street.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Pulliam left yesterday for Atlanta, Ga., where they will spend the holidays with relatives.

Miss Ellen Pollard, who has been visiting friends in this city, has returned to her home in Richmond.

Mr. Alfred Garnett, of New York, is expected to arrive this week to spend Christmas with his sisters, Mrs. C. A. Ashby and R. M. Nelson, on Thirty-third street.

Mr. Brimond Harvey, of Martinsburg, W. Va., will arrive here Saturday to spend Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. I. G. Harvey, on Thirty-first street.

Miss Mattie Spencer will go to Richmond Saturday to visit relatives.

Lieutenant T. G. Ellyson has returned to his home in Richmond after spending several months at the Warwick hotel.

Mrs. Bertha E. Holland will leave tomorrow for Franklin, Va., where she will spend the holidays with her parents.

FRONT—MOORE.

Pretty Home Wedding Solemnized at
Bride's Home Last Night.

A pretty home wedding was solemnized at 7 o'clock yesterday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Frondt, 231 Twenty-sixth street, when Miss Dortha Frondt became the bride of Mr. W. H. Moore, Rev. A. C. Karkau, pastor of the Trinity Lutheran church, performed the ceremony in the presence of many of the friends and relatives of the young couple.

The bride, who wore a grey traveling suit with hat and gloves to correspond, was attended by her sister, Elizabeth Frondt, as maid of honor. Her costume was of green mull trimmed in gold. Miss Marie Gerecke acted as ring bearer and Miss Margaret Gerecke as flower girl. Their costumes were of white. Mr. E. Sietel attended the groom as best man.

Prof. Remick officiated at the piano and during the ceremony Miss Susie Frondt, sister of the bride, sang "O Perfect Love." Her costume was of pink mull trimmed with pearls. The parlors were tastefully decorated with palms and evergreens.

A reception was tendered the guests after the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Moore left on the Old Dominion night steamer for Richmond. After a short trip in the north they will return home to this city.

Will Abandon Church. NORFOLK, Va., Dec. 21.—Following a brief service, to be held Christmas morning, the Protestant Episcopal church, after nearly a century of existence, will permanently close its doors. The congregation will begin its new life in the magnificent new church on the new road, near the old church.

But 3 More Days

EVERY minute counts now. Even those who have put off holiday purchases until now will find the task an easy one at Meyers Bros., but we advise for your convenience, that you shop early—morning is best. Our stocks have been replenished and extra salespeople engaged, so that not a minute is lost to the busy Christmas shopper.

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Gowans Preparation has out of the largest and most satisfactory sales of any preparation carried in our stock. We consider it a wonderful success.

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Manufactured and wholly refined by your Druggist

DR. H. H. ADAIR
VETERINARY SURGEON
Office: Caffee's Livery Stable.
BOTH PHONES NO. 1

Marriage License Issued.

A marriage license was issued at the office of the clerk of courts yesterday to Clifton A. Johnson and Miss Margaret M. Evans, both of this city. The ceremony was performed yesterday. The groom gave his occupation as a stationary engineer.

Wants to Help Some One.

For thirty years J. F. Boyer, of Ferris, Mo., needed help and couldn't find it. That's why he wants to help some one now. Suffering so long himself he feels for all distress from Backache, Nervousness, Loss of Appetite, Lassitude and Kidney disorders. He shows that Electric Bitters work wonders for such troubles. "Five bottles," he writes, "wholly cured me and now I am well and hearty." It's also positively guaranteed for Liver Troubles, Dyspepsia, Blood Disorders, Female Complaints and Malaria. Try them. 50c at All Druggists.

Just try G. B. B. Special.

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Including one cover 24x2 yards, in beautiful floral designs and one dozen Napkins to match; put up in box, \$4.98 value. Holiday price, the set \$3.98

Mercerized Table Napkins

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That's what you've got coming when you get your first month's gas bill for cooking and lighting. We venture the opinion that it will not be one-half as large as you expected it would be.

If you think that gas is too expensive for you to use for cooking why not satisfy yourself on that point?

We'll charge you nothing for telling you about what the amount of gas you'd likely use would cost you each month. Just think of the comfort you're missing by not having a gas range.

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Newport News Gas Co.
Newport News, Va.

STATEMENT

Schmelz Brothers

BANKERS

Newport News, Virginia.
NOVEMBER 2ND, 1910.

Assets.	
Bills Discounted	\$82,672.28
Bonds and Securities	143,032.83
Real Estate	122,449.28
Bank Building	49,000.00
Cash on hand and due from other Banks	269,072.36
	\$1,476,224.85
Liabilities.	
Capital	10,000.00
Surplus and Profits	298,724.79
Deposits	122,449.28
Reserve for Interest, Taxes and Insurance	11,393.33
	\$1,476,224.85

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